

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8230

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USUN NEW YORK 1189

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 14934

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MILI, CB

SUBJECT: KC PROPAGANDA ON DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: FBIS BANGKOK 070557Z NOV 74 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN THEIR FIRST PROPAGANDA COMMENTARY ON THE UPCOMING DRY SEASON MILITARY CAMPAIGN, THE KC HAVE TAKEN A CAUTIOUS, DEFENSIVE LINE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GRUNK/FUNK "CAMBODIAN INFORMATION AGENCY" (AKI) BROADCAST ON NOVEMBER 6 WHAT IS TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE'S FIRST COMMENTARY ON THE DRY SEASON (REFERENCE). THE BROADCAST IS
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CAST BEGAN BY IMPLICITLY CONCEDED A COMMUNIST DEFENSIVE POSTURE

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS BY SAYING THAT AT THE END OF THE RAINY SEASON "THE CPNLAF HAD KEPT ALL ITS POSITIONS" AND "CRUSHED" ALL FANK OPERATIONS. THRU THE DRY SEASON TO FOLLOW, THE GOALS SEEM, DESPITE THE USUAL HYPERBOLE OF "CRUSHING", "STRANGLING" AND "ELIMINATING" FANK AND THE GKR, FAIRLY MODEST; (A) THE "LAUNCH VIGOROUS ATTACKS AROUND PHNOM PENH" (UNDERLINING OURS) AND TO SHELL MILITARY TARGETS NEAR THE CAPITAL; (B) TO PREVENT GKR USE OF KEY ROADS AND RIVERS; (C) TO ENCIRCLE THE PROVINCIAL CAPITALS "TEMPORARILY" UNDER GKR CONTROL; (D) TO LAUNCH AN "OFFENSIVE" IN THE REAR AREAS TO INTENSIFY PRODUCTION AND BRING IN THE RICE HARVEST.

3. THE RESULT OF THESE "POWERFUL" EFFORTS, ACCORDING TO AKI, WILL BE NO MORE THAN TO CREATE "FAVORABLE" AND "NEW" CONDITIONS "TO ADVANCE TO TOTAL AND DEFINITIVE LIBERATION OF PHNOM PENH AND ALL OF CAMBODIA". THERE IS NO MENTION OF A QUICK VICTORY DURING THE DRY SEASON; THERE IS NO TIME FRAME GIVEN AT ALL.

4. COMMENT: LAST YEAR'S INITIAL DRY SEASON COMMENTARY BY THE OTHER SIDE WAS ALSO CAUTIOUS, BECAME MORE STRIDENT AND CONFIDENT AS THE KC MOVED CLOSER TO PHNOM PENH, THEN LOWERED IN DECIBEL COUNT AS FANK STOOD FIRM. WE CAN ANTICIPATE SIMILAR CHANGES IN TONE THIS YEAR SHOULD THE OTHER SIDE'S FORTUNES CHANGE, AT THE UN OR ON THE BATTLEFIELD. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, THEIR DRY SEASON CLAIMS SEEM TO US TO BE NOTICEABLY MODEST AND CAREFULLY HEDGED. END COMMENT.
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